Construction of double track railway line

3795. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the construction of double track line between Maldah and New Bongaigaon through New Jalpaiguri;

(b) whether it is a fact that the double track line between Mugalsarai and New Jalpaiguri is yet to be completed;

(c) what is the reason for the delay of the work; and

(d) what is the time set for completion of double track line between Guwahati and New Bongaigaon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) There is double line from Malda to New Jalpaiguri except very short stretch of 0.40 km. on Mahananda bridge between Malda-Old Malda. Doubling of track on Mahananda bridge is sanctioned and targeted for completion by March, 2010.

Double line exists between Samuktala Road and New Bongaigaon. Between Samuktala Road and New Jalpaiguri, there are two single lines on different alignment. With the present level of traffic, doubling is not considered necessary between New Jalpaiguri and Samuktala.

(b) and (c) Between Mugalsarai-New Jalpaiguri, there are two routes, one *via* Malda and other *via* Barauni-Katihar. Mostly the routes are double line except certain single line patches on both these routes. The doubling of remaining single line sections between Barauni-Katihar have been taken up and is likely to be completed by March, 2011. With this, double line will be available on this entire route *via* Barauni-Katihar except between Katihar-Barsoi where two routes on different alignment are already available.

On the other route *via* Malda, there are single line patches between Kiul-Barharwa and doubling of certain sections have been taken up. There is also a single line patch between Malda-Old Malda, of which doubling is already in progress and targeted for completion during 2009-10.

(d) Between New Bongaigaon and Guwahati, there are two single lines on different alignment *via* Jogighopa and *via* Rangia. The conventional doubling is not considered necessary for the present from traffic considerations.

Gauge conversion of Bilimora-Waghai line

3796. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of survey of extension and gauge conversion of Bilimora-Waghai line of Western Railway up to Dhond; and

(b) the target for survey report of the said works?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) A survey for gauge conversion of Bilimora-Waghai with extension upto Manmad has been taken up and is likely to be completed in the year 2010-11. Further, from Manmad to Daund, a broad gauge line already exists.

Gauge conversion of Chhindwara-Nagpur rail line

†3797. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question No. 856 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 10 July, 2009 and state:

(a) whether granting approval to detailed estimate and granting approval to the amount is one and same thing, or two distinct processes;

(b) if both are distinct processes, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for not fixing target for completion of Chhindwara-Nagpur gauge conversion project in tribal areas; and

(d) whether Government would consider finishing this project early since this project is related to development of tribal areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Detailed estimate is sanctioned for a particular amount.

(c) and (d) The completion of project would depend upon availability of resources and other factors. In absence of assured funding, target could not be fixed.

Upgradation of stations in South Central Railway

3798. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is need for a face lift of many railway stations in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, zone-wise especially in South Central Railway;

(c) the amount spent on each zone during the last three years compared to South Central Railway; and

(d) the future programmes identified therefor for South Central Railway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) Improvement to stations including face-lifting is an on-going activity and works in this regard are undertaken as and when required through Annual Works Programme. Zone-wise details in this regard, including South Central Railway, are as under: